

UNRAVELLING THE BOOK OF REVELATION | SESSION 52

# INTRODUCTION TO THE MILLENNIAL KINGDOM

REVELATION 20:4-6



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**Revelation 20:4–6 is one of the clearest passages in the New Testament on the Millennial Kingdom, which is a literal 1000-year kingdom during which Jesus will rule on the earth. This happens after the Great Tribulation and the Second Coming of Jesus.**

**The Millennial Kingdom is not figurative or symbolic, but it is real. It is one of the most important themes in the Bible, yet one of the most neglected topics in the Church of Jesus Christ.**



**Do you know that the Millennial Kingdom was a core message of Jesus?** He constantly spoke about the kingdom of heaven and taught His disciples to pray that His kingdom will come (Matt. 6:10). After His resurrection, Jesus spent 40 days teaching His disciples the things pertaining to the Kingdom of God, the coming Millennial Kingdom (Acts 1:3-7). He told them that there is an appointed time that the Father has set for the restoration of the kingdom to Israel. He was referring to the Millennial Kingdom.

**Why, then, is this doctrine so neglected in the Body of Christ?**

**Firstly, many in the Church consider the Millennial Kingdom to be figurative or symbolic.** When we read passages such as Isaiah 11:6-9 on the wolf dwelling with the lamb, the lion eating straw like the ox, etc., we dismiss it as impossible. We then relegate this to the realm of the symbolic, mysterious, or even mystical when it is actually real and to be taken literally.

**Secondly, the Church often thinks that this topic is not relevant or practical.** In a book entitled "*Prophetic Untimeliness*", O.S. Guinness challenged the **Idolatry of Relevance in the Church of Jesus Christ.** The Church has tried so hard to be relevant that we have become irrelevant to the world. What's more, the way we define relevance is no longer in accordance with what the Bible says.

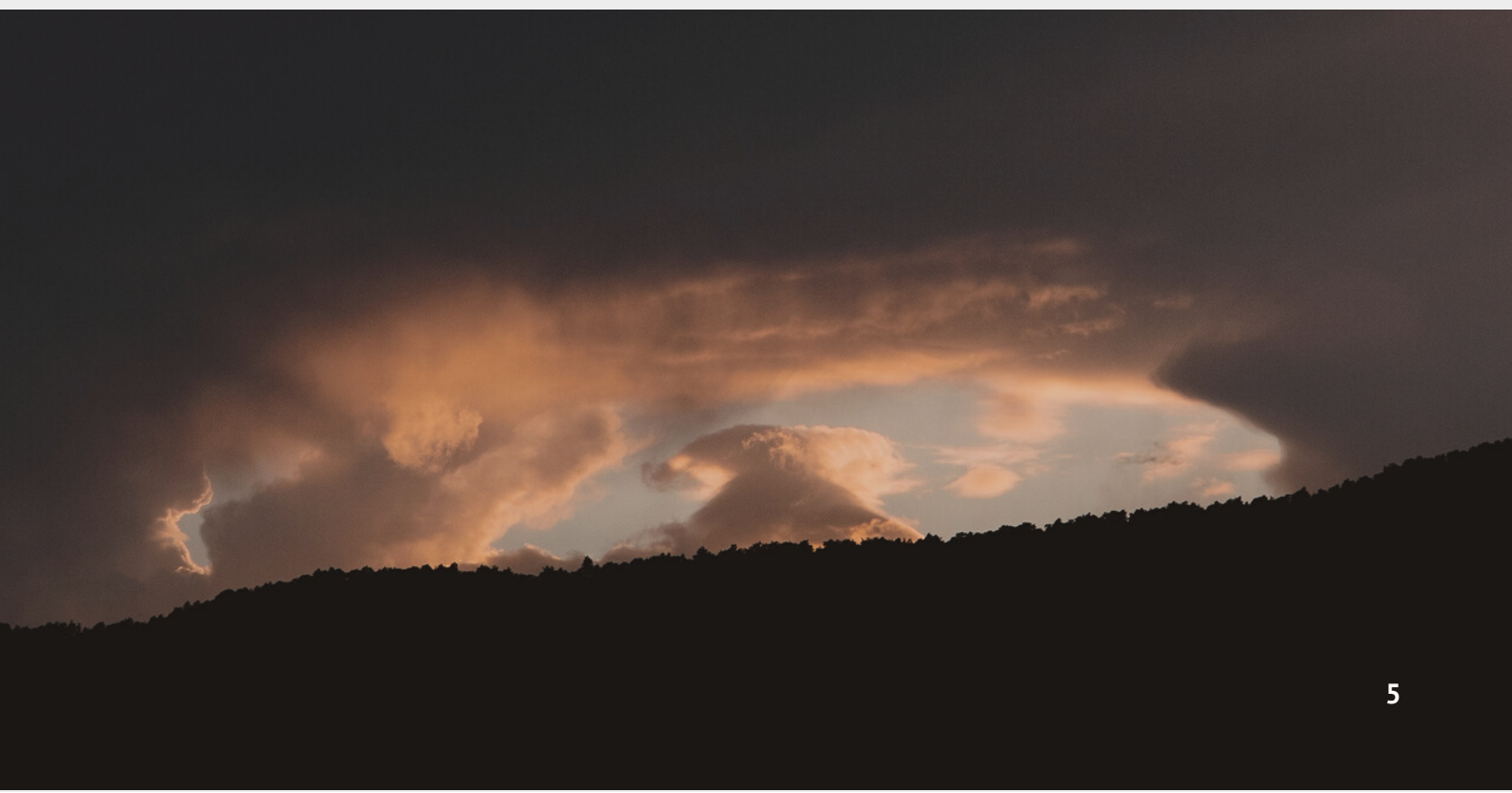
### **How can the understanding of eternity not be relevant?**

If our focus is solely on what is here on earth, we will seek after temporal blessings, prosperity and success in the eyes of the world, and we will not live our lives to the fullness in accordance with what God has intended for us.

**On the other hand, if we have the eternal perspective, we will know where we are going, what the kingdom of God is about, and what matters to God in this age and in the Age-to-come. Having this perspective will totally change the way we live and the way we invest our time and our money.**

## **WHAT EXACTLY IS THE MILLENNIAL KINGDOM?**

It is a literal, 1000-year kingdom in which Jesus will rule and reign over the earth from the city of Jerusalem. **During the Millennial Kingdom, there will be an open manifestation of the kingdom and glory of God in a global dimension (Hab. 2:14).**





The **Millennial Age** is preceded by **the human or natural age**, which is where we are right now, and it precedes the **eternal age**.

It will begin after Jesus defeats the Antichrist and his empire and throws him and the false prophet into the Lake of Fire. Jesus will kill all those who put on the Mark of the Beast and cast Satan into the bottomless pit (Rev. 19:21; 20:1–3). He will take His throne in the Millennial temple and govern from Jerusalem as the Son of Man. This fulfils God's promise that dominion of the earth will be given to man (Gen. 1:26–28; Dan. 7:11–14).

In the Millennial Age, the natural realm will not disappear. **Human and natural processes will still be around, but they will be enhanced by the supernatural realm.** Lifespan will be restored to that of pre-Noah's time (Isa. 65:20–23). Animosity between animals and humans will be removed (Isa. 11:6–9). Agriculture, the environment and the atmosphere will be restored.

**Concerning the Millennial Kingdom, we would like to highlight a few wrong paradigms:**



## **1. *"We are going to heaven"***

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**We are not going to heaven, but heaven is coming down on earth!**

Heaven, which is called New Jerusalem, will fully descend upon the earth in the Eternal Age (Rev. 21:3). During the Millennial Age, it will only descend halfway and be situated above the earthly Jerusalem (Ps. 48:1–6; Isa. 4:5–6; Matt. 19:28; 25:31).

**We can know this from the fact that the dimensions of the New Jerusalem in Revelation 21:16 are different from that of the Millennial Jerusalem described in Ezekiel 48. Jesus will have a throne in the heavenly Jerusalem and one in the earthly Jerusalem.**



## ***2. “We will be spirits floating around, playing our harps”***

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We will not be spirits floating around. **But we will be living on the earth with actual physical bodies.**

There will be two kinds of people in the Millennial kingdom:

**One group of people will have new glorified bodies. These are the resurrected and raptured saints who will partner with the Lord in ruling and reigning over the earth.**

They could either be priests who minister to the Lord in worship or intercede and disciple the nations. (In the Millennial Kingdom, God governs through intercession. Psalm 72:15 tells us that prayers are being continually offered during the Millennial Kingdom.) Or they could be kings who partner with the Lord to administer justice and execute plans to restore and transform cities, governments, judicial systems, economy, agriculture, environment and society.

Not every believer will be resurrected or raptured during the Second Coming of Jesus. There are requirements — we have to be faithful and overcome (Rev. 20:4–6). This is what we as believers seek because Revelation 20:6 tells us that *“blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection, and that over such the second death has no power...”*

**The second group are people with natural bodies** (Isa. 4:3; 10:20–21; 66:19; Jer. 31:2; Ezek. 20:38–42; 36:36–38; Amos 9:9–15; Zech. 12:10–14; 13:8–9; 14:16). **They could be unbelievers who have not put on the Mark of the Beast during the Great Tribulation.** They will be given a chance to accept Jesus as their Lord and Saviour. All the unbelievers who are still alive at Jesus' Second Coming, including some kings of the earth, will come to the saving knowledge of Jesus (Ps. 72:11; Phil. 2:10–11). There could also be some in the second group who are lukewarm believers who did not put on the Mark of the Beast.

### ***3. "Everything will be changed and transformed instantly."***

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**During the Millennial Kingdom, Jesus will bring restoration, but the change will be progressive (Isa. 9:7; Zech. 6:12). God's glory will spread from Jerusalem to the nations on the earth. The priests of God will be sent forth to disciple the nations. The kingdom of God will influence every sphere of society. It will take 1000 years for the nations to be fully disciplined and for transformation to be completed.**



Let me end by sharing the purpose of the Millennial Kingdom.

Why does God go through the lengthy process of preparing the earth for a thousand years? There is a reason behind the whole process, and we need to catch God's heart.

**God's eternal purpose and desire is for Himself to dwell together with His people here on earth and for His people to encounter the fullness of who He is.**



God created the universe in two realms — **the heavenly realm** (heaven) and **the earthly realm** (the natural or physical realm). The heavenly realm is where God's power, presence, glory and revelation is openly manifested. The earthly realm is the natural realm where human processes, thinking, emotion and sensation operate.

The highest encounter we can have with God is not in our spirit alone, but when we encounter and experience God in our glorified bodies through the entirety of our spirit, soul and body. That is why ultimately, when we stand before His throne, feasting upon the unending riches and beauty of the knowledge of God, we will be in our glorified resurrected bodies because our physical bodies cannot take the fullness of His glory.

**THE FULLNESS OF GOD'S PERSONALITY,  
GLORY, AND POWER CAN ONLY BE  
EXPERIENCED WHEN THE SPIRIT REALM  
AND THE PHYSICAL REALM COME  
TOGETHER. THIS WILL HAPPEN WHEN HE  
BRINGS HEAVEN AND EARTH TOGETHER  
AS ONE IN CHRIST (EPH. 1:9 – 10).**



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God's redemption plan for the world is for heaven and earth to come together as one. The New Jerusalem will descend partially over the earthly Jerusalem during the Millennial Age and fully upon the earth in the Eternal Age!

The Millennial Kingdom is Jesus' mandate to prepare the earth for the coming of the Father. Jesus alone is able to and will bring the heavenly realm and the earthly realm together so that God the Father can finally come down and dwell on earth with men, just like He did in the beginning in the Garden of Eden.

And this time round, it will be forever!

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